

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 156898
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02
SSM-05 PCH-02 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 SSO-00
INRE-00 /089 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----007189 210159Z /73

O 202335Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 156898

USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
DOD
JCS
CIA
USICA
NSC
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 156898

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 20, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EX-CERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 20. FYI ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YET ON THE RESPONSE TO THE ISRAELI STATEMENT?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 156898

A. NO. I DON'T. I AM STILL IN THE SAME POSTURE AS YESTERDAY. THERE WILL BE MORE CONSULTATIONS.

Q. DOES THAT INCLUDE A TRIP HERE BY ANY HIGH-RANKING ISRAELI OFFICIALS?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ONE.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS MIGHT BE IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS?

A. BEYOND THE KNOWN FACTOR OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP, I WOULD NOT WANT TO BET MONEY ON ANYTHING. I PERSONALLY WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT ANYBODY PACK THEIR BAGS FOR JUNE, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW ENOUGH BEYOND THAT TO SAY.

Q. YOU SAID CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING. WHAT CONSULTATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE RIGHT NOW? IS IT ON THE ISRAELI POSITION OR THE EGYPTIAN POSITION ON THE ISRAELI RESPONSES?

A. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH BOTH, AS YOU KNOW.

Q. WHY?

A. BECAUSE WE WISH TO SEE WHAT THE REACTION IS ON THE ONE HAND FROM THE EGYPTIANS, WHICH SOME REACTION HAS BEEN EXPRESSED PUBLICLY, AND ALSO BECAUSE WE WANTED, AND HAVE RECEIVED, SOME DEGREE OF FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF WHAT THE CABINET POSITION MEANT AND THE PARLIAMENTARY ENDORSEMENT MEANT.

Q. DO YOU SEE THEN, SINCE YOU GOT THAT CLARIFICATION, ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT AT ALL?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHARACTERIZE OUR INTERPRETATION OF THIS.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 156898

Q. WELL, IF YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS, WHAT IS THE POINT OF GOING TO THE EGYPTIANS?

A. I AM SAYING THAT I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHARACTERIZE HOW WE VIEW IT.

Q. THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY, BUT MY QUESTION IS: IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING THAT YOU REGARD AS CONSTRUCTIVE OR NEWLY FLEXIBLE ON THE PART OF THE ISRAELIS, WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO THE EGYPTIANS?

A. THE SPOKESMAN FROM HERE HAS NEVER SAID WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE, NOR HAVE I SAID IT ANYWHERE ELSE. I'M SAYING THAT I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO CHARACTERIZE HOW WE VIEW IT. NOW THE FACT THAT WE ARE TALKING WITH THE EGYPTIANS, YOU CAN DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS YOU WANT.

Q. THE ISRAELI RESPONSE.

A. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHARACTERIZE OUR RESPONSE OR THEIR RESPONSE IN THIS EXCHANGE SO FAR.

Q. ARE YOU DELIBERATELY IMPLYING HERE THAT THE CLARIFICATIONS MAY HAVE SHOWN A BIT MORE FLEXIBILITY THAN WAS EVIDENT AT FIRST?

A. NO, I AM TRYING VERY CAREFULLY NOT TO IMPLY ANYTHING -- NOT TO CHARACTERIZE IN ANY WAY.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY RESPONSE FROM THE SADAT SPEECH TODAY?

A. NO.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 156898

Q. IN THE SADAT SPEECH -- HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, IN TRANSLATION AT LEAST: "WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SURRENDER ONE SQUARE CENTIMETER OF ARAB LAND -- NOT JUST EGYPTIAN LAND." HOW IS THIS INTERPRETED BY OUR GOVERNMENT?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN INTERPRETATION OF THE SPEECH. IT IS BEING READ NOW.

Q. IS THIS THE EGYPTIAN POSITION AS CONVEYED OFFICIALLY TO US?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON THE SPEECH. I THINK THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR, HOWEVER, WITH A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT MR. SADAT HAS SAID OVER TIME PUBLICLY, AND YOU MIGHT JUST COMPARE THEM.

Q. WERE THE SAME TWO QUESTIONS THAT YOU PUT TO ISRAEL EVER PUT TO EGYPT FOR A RESPONSE?

A. NOT IN THAT FORM. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SAME MATTERS WITH THE EGYPTIANS. WE HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS ON BOTH QUESTIONS WITH EGYPT, AND I BELIEVE HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT THEIR POSITION IS.

Q. DID YOU GET ANSWERS BACK FROM THE EGYPTIANS THAT STRIKE YOU AS A SUITABLE BASIS FROM WHICH YOU CAN THEN MOVE, GIVEN WHAT YOU HAVE GOT NOW FROM THE ISRAELIS, TOWARD SOME KIND OF RECONCILIATION OF THE TWO?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS HOW FAR I THINK THAT OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE TAKEN US AT THIS POINT.

Q. DOES THE CONSULTATION TAKING PLACE NOW HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANY PROPOSED AMERICAN PLAN TO SOLVE ANY OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 156898

A. NO, WE ARE NOT ADVANCING PLANS.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT OVER THE WEEKEND IN THE NEW YORK TIMES FROM PARIS REGARDING A SUPPOSEDLY NEW ALLIANCE BETWEEN IRAN, IRAQ AND SAUDI ARABIA.

A. THAT WAS AN INTERESTING STORY WHICH OBVIOUSLY WAS READ WITH INTEREST. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT. I THINK, HOWEVER, THE HEADLINE NOTWITHSTANDING, THE STORY WAS A LITTLE SOFTER THAN THE HEADLINE SUGGESTED. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT WAS A LOT SOFTER.

Q. THE THREAT FROM IRAQ TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS A MAJOR ARGUMENT IN THE F-15'S DEBATE.

A. YES. I HAVE HAD OCCASION FROM HERE BEFORE TO SAY THAT WHILE I AM CONFIDENT OF THE GOOD FAITH, INTEGRITY AND COMMON SENSE, I AM NOT ALWAYS SURE THAT EVERY NEWS STORY IS EXACTLY ACCURATE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS STORY WASN'T ACCURATE?

A. I AM SAYING THAT I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA.

Q. HAVE YOU LOOKED INTO IT?

A. I HAVE NO ASSESSMENT. I AM CERTAIN THAT IT'S BEING STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY.

Q. BUT IRRESPECTIVE OF THIS STORY, ARE THERE INDICATIONS THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ ARE IMPROVING RELATIONS RIGHT NOW?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 156898

A. I HAVE SEEN NO PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF THAT.

Q. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND IRAQ TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS?

A. THERE WAS A FLURRY OF CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THAT ABOUT A YEAR AND A MONTH AGO. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB FLEW INTO IRAQ, HAD SOME CONVERSATIONS AND THEN FLEW BACK TO GENEVA WHEN WE WERE THERE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PARTICULAR PROGRESS SINCE THEN THAT I AM AWARE OF. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE AN INTERESTS SECTION MAN THERE.

Q. ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TODAY?

A. YOU DON'T DOUBT THAT WE WERE PLEASED BY THE DECISION OF OPEC. VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE156898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780257-0877
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780638/aaaabhdhp.tel
Line Count: 275
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e8a2b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2274783
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 20, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, US, XF
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e8a2b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014